

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION

ELAINA THOMAS

Plaintiff,

Civil Action No. 12-cv-14693

HON. BERNARD A. FRIEDMAN

vs.

HAVENWYCK HOSPITAL,

Defendant.

**OPINION AND ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION TO
PROCEED IN FORMA PAUPERIS AND DISMISSING THE COMPLAINT**

This matter is presently before the court on plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis [docket entry 2]. For the following reasons, the court shall (1) grant the application and therefore allow the complaint to be filed without prepayment of the filing fee, and (2) dismiss the complaint because it is frivolous and/or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1), the court may permit a person to commence a lawsuit without prepaying the filing fee, provided the person submits an affidavit demonstrating that he/she "is unable to pay such fees or give security therefor." In the present case, plaintiff's application to proceed in forma pauperis makes the required showing of indigence. The court shall therefore grant the application and permit the complaint to be filed without requiring plaintiff to prepay the filing fee.

Pro se complaints are held to "less stringent standards" than those drafted by lawyers. *Haines v. Kerner*, 404 U.S. 519, 520 (1972). Nonetheless, the court is required by statute to dismiss an in forma pauperis complaint if it

- (i) is frivolous or malicious;
- (ii) fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted; or
- (iii) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.

28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B). A complaint is frivolous if “it lacks an arguable basis either in law or in fact.” *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989). In other words, a complaint is frivolous if “based on an indisputably meritless legal theory” or “clearly baseless” facts or “a legal interest which clearly does not exist” or “fantastic or delusional scenarios.” *Id.* at 327-28. To avoid dismissal for failure to state a claim, “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Center for Bio-Ethical Reform, Inc. v. Napolitano*, 648 F.3d 365, 369 (6th Cir. 2011) (citations and internal quotations omitted). Further, the court is required to dismiss the complaint, whether or not plaintiff is proceeding *in forma pauperis*, if the court lacks subject matter jurisdiction. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3). “The facts showing the existence of jurisdiction must be affirmatively alleged in the complaint.” *Romano v. Kardashian*, No.12-50960, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106767, at *2-3 (E.D. Mich. Jul. 31, 2012); *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(1); *McNutt v. General Motors Acceptance Corp.*, 298 U.S. 178 (1936).

The sum of plaintiff’s claim is that one of defendant’s social workers contacted child protective services and falsely reported that “[plaintiff] was going to strangle” her son. Plaintiff does not base her claim on any federal statute or authority. Nor does she affirmatively allege that the requirements of diversity jurisdiction have been satisfied. Upon reviewing plaintiff’s complaint, the Court fails to discern any “basis for the exercise of federal question or diversity subject matter jurisdiction” in this case. *Romano*, 2012 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 106767, at *3; *see* 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, 1345 and 1346.

Accordingly,

IT IS ORDERED that plaintiff's application for leave to proceed in forma pauperis is granted. The complaint is filed and the filing fee need not be prepaid.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the complaint is dismissed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2)(B).

Dated: November 7, 2012
Detroit, Michigan

S/ Bernard A. Friedman_____
BERNARD A. FRIEDMAN
SENIOR UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE